

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 ACDA-19 OIC-04

AID-20 SCA-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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TAGS: PARM PFOR ICRC VN VS

SUBJ: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF(A) GENEVA 5020; (B) GENEVA 5069

1. MISSION TODAY RECEIVED NOTE DATED AUGUST 12 FROM ICRC CONCERNING CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS WHICH INTER ALIA TREATS WITH SUBJECT OF PRG PARTICIPATION. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF NOTE FOLLOW:

QTE THE ICRC ALSO ASKED THE GOVERNMENTS THAT WERE INVITED TO LET IT KNOW IN WRITING, BEFORE 31 JULY, WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE IN FAVOR OF THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS NOMINATED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM OR BY OTHER BODIES WHICH HAD NOT TAKEN PART IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE.

MANY GOVERNMENTS SENT REPLIES TO THE ICRC, EITHER TO ANNOUNCE THE PARTICIPATION OF THEIR EXPERTS, OR TO DECLINE THE INVITATION, OR,
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AGAIN, TO STATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEND A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION.

AT THE EXPIRY DATE, 75 GOVERNMENTS HAD EXPRESSED AN OPINION ON THE MATTER OF THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS NOMINATED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM OR BY OTHER BODIES. THE ICRC HAS FOUND THAT IN A MAJORITY OF REPLIES THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE AGAINST ANY CHANGE IN THE LIST OF INVITATIONS; 30 GOVERNMENTS WISHED TO INCLUDE THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN THE COUNTRIES ON THE LIST OF INVITATIONS, 36 WERE OPPOSED AND 9 EXPRESSLY STATED THEIR ABSTENTION. NO GOVERNMENT PROPOSED INVITING OTHER BODIES THAN THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHOSE PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHO WERE INVITED ACCORDINGLY TO SENT EXPERTS. THE ICRC, CONSEQUENTLY, HAS DECIDED NOT TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE (RO 555/3B), ITS COMPOSITION HAVING NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED DEFINITELY AND IRREVOCABLY. IN TAKING THIS DECISION, THE ICRC WOULD LIKE TO STRESS ONCE AGAIN THAT THE EXPERTS AT THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE EXPRESSING THEIR OWN VIEWS AND WILL NOT BE SPEAKING AS PLENIPOTENTIARIES COMMITTING THEIR GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR STATEMENTS END QTE

2. COMMENT: ABOVE COUNT OF VOTE DIFFERS FROM COUNT GIVEN MISSION BY ICRC AUGUST 2 AND REPORTED REFTEL A IN THAT IT SHOWS FOUR ADDITIONAL VOTES AGAINST PRG PARTICIPATION AND FIVE ADDITIONAL VOTES FAVORING PRG PARTICIPATION WHICH HAD APPARENTLY BEEN RECEIVED BY JULY 31 BUT WERE INADVERTENTLY OMITTED FROM INFORMAL EARLIER COUNT. FURTHER, THE "NO OPINION" VOTES SHOWN IN REFTEL A WERE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED, LEAVING ONLY NINE VOTES COUNTED AS EXPRESSED ABSTENTIONS. NO RPT NO LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH VOTED ACCOMPANIED ICRC NOTE.

3. REST OF NOTE STATES ICRC PREPARED HAVE ITS VICE PRESIDENT PICTET ASSUME DUTIES OF PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE AND MENTIONS CHANGE IN RULES TO PROCEDURE TO INCREASE NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENTS FROM THREE TO FIVE. NOTE ALSO STATES VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OR PLEDGES TOTALLING SWISS FRANCS 355,000 RECEIVED FROM 20 GOVERNMENTS TOWARD CONFERENCE EXPENSES OF SWISS FRANCS 500,000. FINALLY, NOTE REQUESTS GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO TO INDICATE WHETHER PARTICIPATING AND, IF SO, HOW MANY EXPERTS ATTENDING.

4. COPY OF NOTE BEING AIRPOUCHED AUGUST 16 TO DEPT, ATTENTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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